

114. "THE RECOGNITION OF A GOVERNMENT OF CUBA IN EXILE AT THIS TIME IS NOT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES": Statement Read to Correspondents by the Deputy Director of the Office of News (Reap), Department of State, October 7, 1961

The recognition of a government of Cuba in exile at this time is not in the national interest of the United States because neither the Government of Switzerland nor any other government could then represent United States interests before the Castro regime.

United States citizens are imprisoned in Cuba and can only be offered such protection as is available in Cuba under the Castro regime by the continued ability of a foreign government to represent U.S. interests.

²⁵ Sept. 24, 1960.

²⁶ Department of State *Bulletin*, Oct. 30, 1961, p. 716. See also the telegram from Wymberley DeR. Coerr, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, to Doctor Julio Garcera de Vall y Souza, Oct. 7 (complete text *ibid.*), in which it was stated that "the United States does not consent to the pretended or assumed existence of the Government of Cuba in Arms in Exile within its sovereign domain and, for that reason, I must suggest that whatever acts you or others associated with you have taken or may be taking looking to the establishment of such a government, without the invitation or consent of the United States, be dissolved and cease forthwith." Mr. Reap made a similar statement to news correspondents, Sept. 19 (footnote 1 *ibid.*): "The Department of State does not believe that it would be in the United States national interest to recognize a Cuban government in exile at this time."